

human freedom and happiness. And let us endeavor to comprehend in all its magnitude and to feel in all its importance the part assigned to us in the great drama of human affairs."

REMARKS BY GEN. JOSEPH RALSTON, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, SEPTEMBER 17, 1997

Secretary Cohen, Former Secretaries Weinberger, Carlucci, and Perry, Members of Congress, Gen. Jones, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am very proud to be here as the representative of the more than 3 million people currently serving in the defense of our nation as soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coast guardsmen—active duty, National Guard, Reserve, and civilians. It is an honor to be a part of this splendid anniversary; a celebration to commemorate fifty years of unwavering leadership to our armed forces.

Take a moment and put yourself back in time. Fifty years ago we had just won a world war and the country was still celebrating its victory. The might of the military machine was not broken, at least the American public didn't think so.

But we learned many lessons the hard way during that war and the leaders who fought that war knew we could and should do better.

These visionaries understood that to stand still would put the United States back where we were before the war . . . as isolationists.

Imagine if you can, the resistance these men faced as they attempted to reorganize our armed forces . . . a force that only a year prior had defeated a deranged dictator and an imperial army and navy.

These leaders, both civilian and military, realized the daunting task before them, but charged forward, amid intense debate, and agreed upon a "unification" course.

Although the reforms in 1947 were immense, ten years later the leaders of our country recognized the requirement for a course correction.

The Act of 1958, spearheaded by President Eisenhower, provided that course correction and called for the organization of all combat forces into unified commands and as he stated, "singly led and prepared to fight as one, regardless of Service."

With this new guidance our armed forces marched on for over 25 years. However, in 1986 a significant change occurred with the enactment of the Goldwater-Nichols Act. It not only reinforced our joint warfighting doctrine, but it also strengthened the civilian authority in the Department and increased the responsibility and authority of the Chairman. Today we have an armed force that is the envy of every nation on this Earth—and the pride of Americans.

Make no mistake . . . it is the magnificent men and women in uniform who make the sacrifices, who walk the jungles, fly over the deserts, sail on and under the seas, that provide the peace, freedom, and stability we enjoy as a Nation today.

But we must resist the temptation to relax and believe we have it just right. We must fight the complacency. We have much left to do as we revolutionize the way we do business, as we make the hard choices that will always put the needs of America's sons and daughters first.

Today I proudly salute the men and women of the Department of Defense.●

IN RECOGNITION OF HARRY BELL

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Harry Bell, a man well known to the people of South

Carolina. We salute him as he retires in December as president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation.

Harry Bell is known throughout the State as a successful farmer. With his son, William, he operates a productive, 1,450 acre farm in Saluda County, on which he raises cattle and plants soybeans, cotton, small grains, and strawberries. But Harry Bell's activities extend far beyond farming. He also is a savvy and successful businessman, with a long career in banking and insurance.

In fact, he began his business career as a bank clerk, currently serves on the local board of First Citizens' Bank, and has been president of the Palmetto Casualty Insurance Co. and director of the Ridge Banking Co.

But it is for his work with South Carolina farmers that Harry Bell is best known. He has served as president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau since 1971; in that time, he helped South Carolina farmers weather droughts, high interest rates, and the increasingly overwhelming competition of large-scale commercial farms. During his tenure as president, Harry helped preserve the State's heritage of family-owned farms, while at the same time assisting farmers to mechanize and modernize their operations. It is partly as a result of his efforts that agriculture remains a key component of South Carolina's economy.

Harry Bell's involvement with agriculture has not been confined to the South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation. He also was president of the Saluda County Farm Bureau Federation for 4 years, and was vice president of the American Farm Bureau Federation from 1986-94. From 1967-85, he was the farm representative on the South Carolina Water Resources Commission.

Fortunately for us, Harry Bell has employed his prodigious talents and energies not just in the service of the farming community, but of the whole community. He must have filled his every waking moment with public service of one kind or another.

He is active in his church, Johnston Presbyterian, having served as an elder and former deacon. He responded to another kind of call when his country summoned him to fight, serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force from 1945-47 and from 1951-53. Additionally, he served in the Air Force Reserves until 1974, when he retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Harry Bell exemplifies the ideal of public service. His career has combined devotion to God, country, and community. Thanks to his stewardship, South Carolina farmers can look forward to many future harvests. It has been my good fortune to work with Harry Bell for over 20 years on important issues affecting the farmers and economy of our State. We in South Carolina are proud to call him our own, and I am honored to salute him today.●

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASING PROGRAM

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would like to rise today, with my colleague, Senator JOHN BREAUX, to engage in a colloquy about a serious matter that has only recently come to our attention.

Mr. GORTON. I yield the floor for your colloquy.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, if these concerns are not addressed, one of our country's most successful programs, the Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program, may be jeopardized. Under that program, the Federal Government has raised hundreds of millions of dollars in rents and royalties over the last 25 years, while at the same time developing safe and secure sources of energy for our country. Crucial to the success of that program is the ability of the private sector to conduct exploration of the Gulf of Mexico before submitting bids on the tracts offered for oil and gas leases.

I recently learned that the Minerals Management Service [MMS] has proposed changes to the rules under which that exploration is conducted. These changes would potentially jeopardize the continuity and success of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act [OCSLA] program.

Currently, geological and geophysical companies [G&G companies] conduct seismic surveys under MMS permits which require the permittees to provide the data they collect to the MMS under strict guarantees of confidentiality.

The G&G companies then provide the oil companies access to the data through nonexclusive licenses. The licenses allow the oil companies to use the data for any purpose including reprocessing the data using their own technology and data. These licenses are given on the condition that the licensee will not show or share the data with anyone else. In this way, the G&G companies are able to offer data to the largest number of possible users at the lowest cost.

Under the proposed regulations, MMS intends to extend its ability to obtain data from just the G&G companies to all of the companies who have licensed and reprocessed that data using their own technology. By requiring all industry to share reprocessed data with the MMS, the threat of disclosure of extremely sensitive business data exists. Under any number of situations, including appeal of fair market values, it is unclear if the proposed changes would protect the confidentiality of that data. This threat to sensitive business data could ultimately threaten the success of the OCS leasing program.

I understand and appreciate the need for MMS to have accurate data. However, I question the need of the Government to obtain reprocessed data that